

LITTLE CLIFF POND (Brewster)

General Information:

This 18-acre natural pond has an average depth of 18 feet and a maximum depth of 34 feet. Transparency is very good, extending to 18 feet, and the bottom is composed of gravel, rubble and sand. Aquatic vegetation is scant. The shoreline is wooded and undeveloped.

This pretty little pond is located in Nickerson State Park (see park map) between Cliff and Higgins Ponds. It can be reached by entering the park and taking a right onto Flax Pond Road. At the end of the road, Little Cliff is the small pond on the left (Cliff Pond is on the right). A paved ramp, somewhat sanded in, is suitable for launching car top boats and canoes.

The pond was reclaimed for warm water fish management in 1954. In 1955, the pond was restocked with smallmouth bass and largemouth bass as gamefish, and with alewives to act as a forage fish. Starting in 1961, the pond has been annually stocked with trout (except in 1976 when the pH was too low). It was partially reclaimed for trout management 1971.

Little Cliff was treated with 20 tons of limestone in 1977, and an additional 37.5 tons in 1991 to counteract the effects of acid rain. Adult smallmouth bass brood stock was stocked in 1980 and 1981.

Fish Populations:

Although no recent survey data exists, Little Cliff Pond contains smallmouth bass in addition to stocked trout. Other species are undoubtedly present as well.

Fishing:

This pond is stocked annually in the spring and fall with brook, brown and rainbow trout. Due to the small size of the pond and its undeveloped shoreline, it can be easily fished from shore or by wading. Try casting small spinners or spoons, streamer flys and nymphs, or stillfish with doughbaits or worms a little off the bottom. In high summer look for the trout to be in a narrow depth range around 24 feet.

While trout are the primary focus here, some smallmouth bass are also caught every year. Best area for these is along the southwestern shoreline.